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Your Chamber



The Chamber Needs Your Support

Bert Bailey, Chairman Membership Committee

All progressive cities in Canada have a Chamber of Commerce. The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization established to promote civic, commercial, industrial and agricultural progress in our community. The Chamber also works for sound legislation and efficient administration in the community and in all levels of government. Our Chamber of Commerce is simply — people working together to make Calgary and district a good place to live and make a living.

Business people who have not already availed themselves of the many advantages of a Chamber of Commerce membership can discover new horizons and broaden old ones through an association with the Chamber and involvement in the Chamber activities. Membership in the Chamber enables individuals to increase their stature in the business community, in turn benefiting their business or industry.

The Chamber of Commerce membership directory will be available soon and will directly benefit all Chamber members.

The Calgary Chamber warrants the support of all business and industry in the area. Shouldn't you be lending your support and in turn receiving the benefits? For further information, without obligation, phone Bill Davis at the Chamber office, 263-7435, or send in the request-for-information card attached to this page.

Chamber Tour to Athabasca Tar Sands

There is the possibility of a one day tour for Chamber members and their wives to Athabasca and the Tar Sands, leaving Calgary in the early morning and returning late in the evening, in mid-June. The tour would be by chartered aircraft and bus, approximately 85 persons could be accom-

modated and the cost would be about \$80.00 per person.

Anyone interested should contact the Chamber office (263-7435).

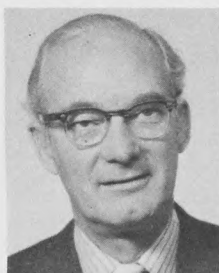
Calgary Magazine has new Editor

Charles Crawford has been appointed to the position of Managing Editor of Calgary Magazine. He brings to the task considerable experience in business and as editor of business publications. He is most receptive to ideas and suggestions toward making this a better publication, and would welcome your letters and phone calls to the Chamber.

Austrian Trade Commissioner in Alberta

The Austrian Trade Commissioner in Vancouver will be in Alberta May 12-16. Interested importers and/or distributors of Austrian goods in general and in Austrian-manufactured oil and gas equipment in particular may contact the Austrian Trade Delegate, Suite 1220, 736 Granville St., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 1Y9, or contact C. M. Black, general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, Suite 273, 125 9th Ave. S.E., Calgary, T2G 0P6.

Chamber Calendar



May 23: Chamber General Meeting, Alberta & Marquis Rooms, Palliser Hotel, 12 noon. Speaker: Herbert K. Pickering, Agent General, Alberta House, London, England.

Subject: "A Glance at Alberta in Europe". Mr. Pickering will speak about the general outlook Britons have toward our province. He will also outline his responsibilities, what the objectives of the Alberta Government are, how we are achieving these objectives, and what interests the British have in Alberta.

Also speaking will be Lord Garnock, director of John Crossley & Sons Ltd., London, and leader of the "Canada West" Mission from the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in England.



Chamber printing Character Maps of Calgary

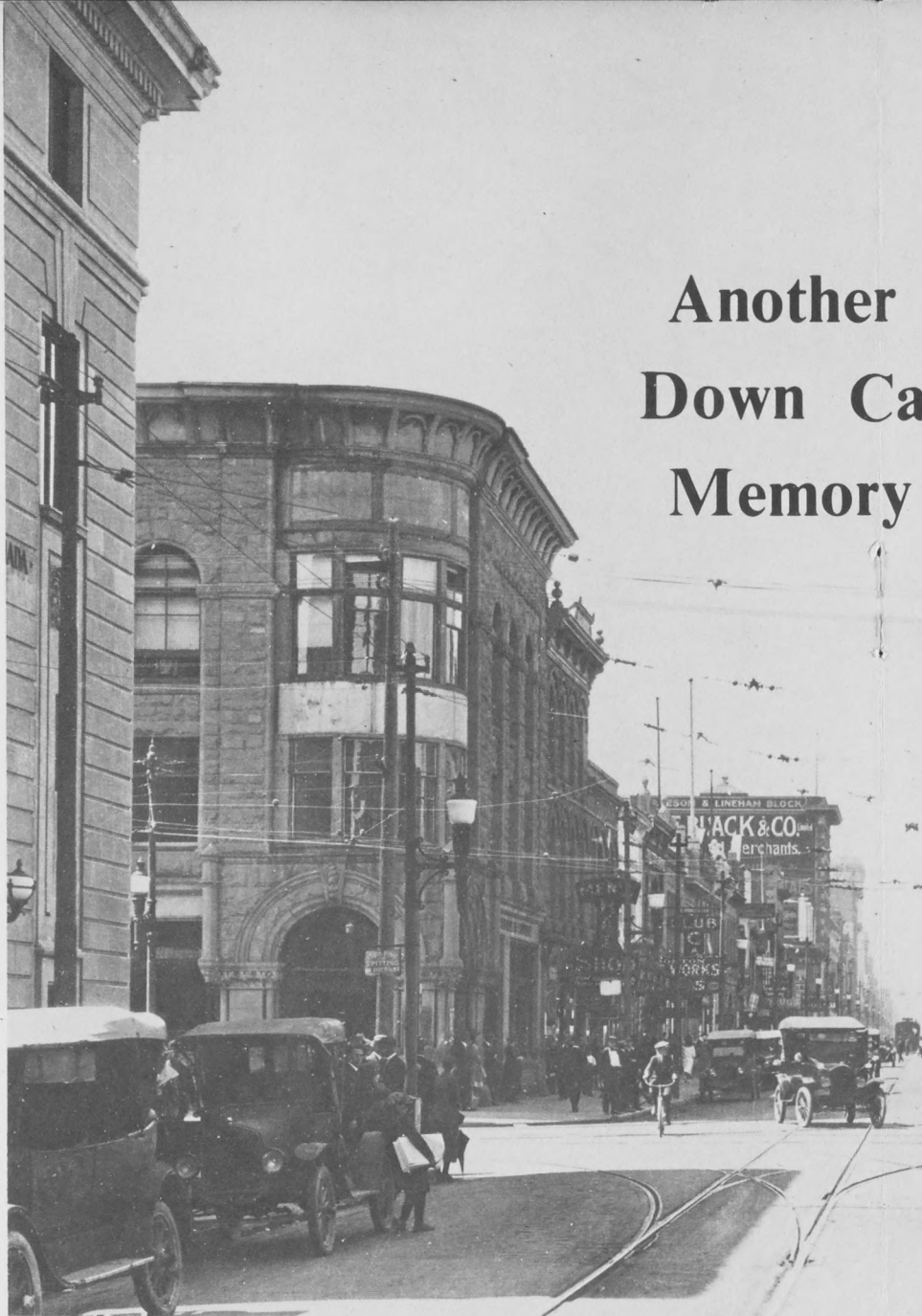
The Chamber of Commerce is having made City of Calgary Character Maps, similar to the one printed for Banff/Lake Louise illustrated above. The maps are being produced by Creative Associates Ltd. and are 30" x 40", full color. If your company is interested in making a minimum purchase of these poster maps from the Chamber, which you may sell, you are eligible for a logo identification in the map. All commercial enterprises featured on the map will remain on all future re-runs for a period of five years from date of first issue — which will be about May 23. Participation decision *must* be made immediately in order to make the issue deadline of May 23. Phone Bill Davis at the Chamber office for more information, 263-7435.



Another Down Ca Memory



*Excavation for Hudson's Bay Co. store, ca. 1911,
with Central Methodist church in the background.
The store was opened August 18, 1913.*

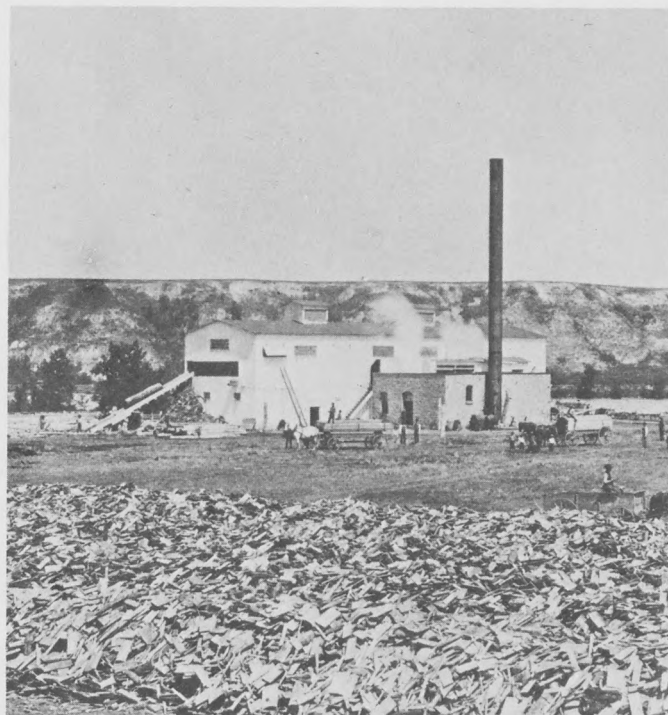
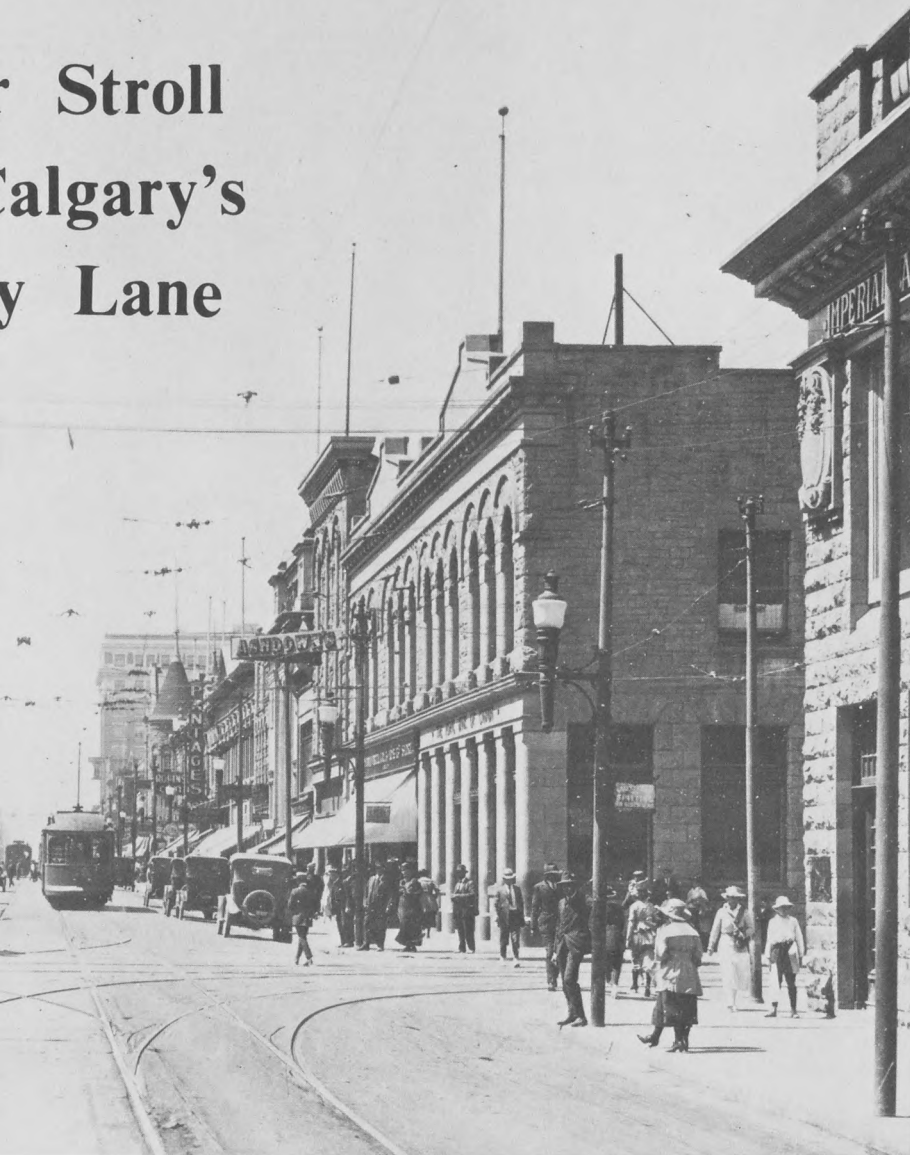


*Hauling ice to loading platform,
Keith, Alberta, ca. 1911.*



Calgary stockyards

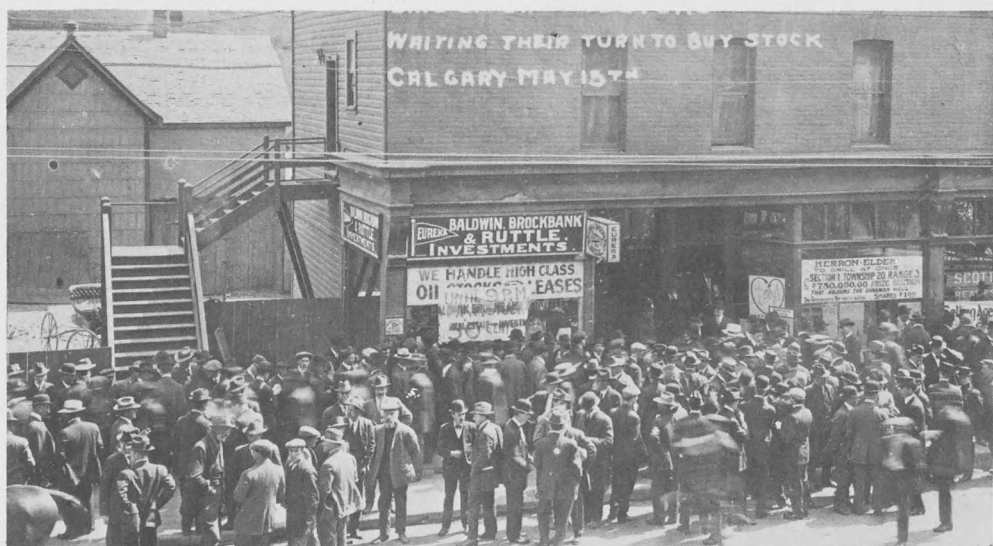
Stroll Calgary's y Lane



*View of Eau Clair lumber mill, Calgary,
ca. 1880's or 1890's.*



ards, ca. 1907.



*Investors waiting to buy oil stock in Calgary,
May 15, 1914.*

All photos courtesy Glenbow-Alberta Institute.

A few not-very-flattering words about Calgary's early days

Undoubtedly, the best-known Calgarian around the turn of the century was, and is R. C. Edwards — Bob Edwards, editor and proprietor of "The Eye Opener" newspaper. That he was a "character" is undisputed. That he was an iconoclast of the best type is proven by his articles. That he was a man of principle is evident from his letter which we reproduce below. Apparently, the then Board of Trade had produced a pamphlet advertising in glowing terms the tremendous opportunities for settlers in the Calgary area. This pamphlet was circulated in more populous eastern Canada. The Chamber of Commerce (successor to the Board of Trade) is fortunate to have the original of this letter on file. It is, of course, a historic document.

The Editor.

Calgary, Feb. 22nd, 1907.

Secretary Board of Trade,
Calgary.

Dear Sir:

I beg to tender my resignation as chairman of the Advertising Committee of the Board of Trade.

You will, perhaps, allow that for a number of years I have succeeded in attracting considerable notice to the City of Calgary and to Alberta, and have, through my various newspaper ventures during the past ten years, been the means of bringing not a few people into this corner of Canada.

There is room for millions of people in Alberta, but they must be allowed to live after they get here. The pamphlets and advertising literature setting forth the advantages of this country do not state that the farmer only gets 50 cents a bushel for Number One Hard wheat, and pays \$2.75 a hundred for his flour. The pamphlets are careful to conceal the fact that the settler has to pay \$28.00 a thousand for rough boards wherewith to build a home. No mention is made of the fact that the potatoes which the Calgary merchant retails for \$1.50 a bushel brings to the farmer up the line a beggarly 25 cents.

I am sorry but I cannot lend myself to any organized project which contemplates bringing in settlers under false pretences.

Let me take the case of Calgary. Everything is wrapped up carefully in a trust. Freight rates have been reduced by the C.P.R. half a dozen times with the object of making things easier for the public and reducing the price of goods, but the public has derived no benefit. On the contrary, prices have been steadily on the increase. The ordinary commodities of life, as sold by our local merchants, are higher today than they were ten years ago. There is no competition whatever. Everything is subject to mutual arrangement among the grocers, the landlords, the hotel men and others who make their living off the public.

Wages are low, and remain low, d--d low. They are never raised. Dollar a day joints have blossomed into \$2 a day hotels. Rents have gone up 25 per cent, and, in some cases 50 per cent. I know of one house that cost \$2,000 to build, that is bringing in \$60.00 a month rent, unfurnished. The landlords, I also notice, have waited until Thomas Burns' assessment was completed before raising their rents. They are a wise lot of guys.

Then what on earth is the use of this 100,000 Club, the object of which is to bring people here, when you have no place to put them after they arrive? When they do come they only get the icy mitt, anyhow. There is no one to meet them or take them in hand and make them feel welcome. Instead of that, they promptly get held up by the hotels.

Where are you going to find sleeping accommodation for the families that will be pouring in here by the hundreds in a few weeks? The hotels are overcrowded now. The immigration hall-and-depot-waiting room Act is a rotten reception to give people whom you have induced to come here. They won't ALL be Galicians, you know.

You must let people live after they get here.

What do you suppose a stranger must think who arrives in Calgary and asks a clerk in a store how much wages he gets, and what he pays for board and room?

Suppose a railroad man decides to locate here and inquires of a \$75-a-month brakeman how much he has left over after paying at the rate of \$2 at a hotel when he is in Calgary. What will he think? You don't suppose he will be chump enough to remain, do you? Imagine, also, a stranger, an average wage earner — asking a married man in Cushing's mill what he is getting and what rent he pays and what he has to pay at the stores for stuff to live on!

It is easy to get the people into this neck of the woods by false representations, but I do not propose to be a party to it. There is room in Alberta for millions of people, but, I repeat, they must be allowed to live after they get here. We have got to get the people into this country to make it a country. We only have 185,000 population, according to last census, and it has taken 25 years to get that many. There is a great future ahead for this country, but, by the Holy Jumped-up Hornby Horse, if the business men of Alberta don't change their methods they will kill it. Kill it deader than a mackerel.

Here in Calgary we pay 10 cents for a loaf of bread, and the farmer gets 50 cents a bushel for his wheat. Why don't you put that in your pamphlets?

The prices would be all right if the producer got anything for his stuff, and if wages rose in proportion to the increase in cost of living.

Five elevators in Leduc belonging to five different grain firms, and each paying the same prices to a cent! Same conditions as the six Wetaskiwin elevators, and at every other point. All under one Combine. All combined to sandbag the farmer.

Only a few years ago, during the time I lived up north, when a farmer brought in a load of wheat, there was a rush of a dozen competing buyers. I have seen wheat bid up to all kinds of healthy prices. The man who offered the most got the wheat. Those were the days when there was some inducement for the farmer to come into the country and till the soil and raise grain.

The Legislature is making a big hullabaloo over Mr. Cushing's Telephone Bill. It certainly is a great measure, but people can get along in a pinch without telephones. The Bell Trust certainly